



Defense Research, Surveys, and Statistics Center (RSSC)

2015 QuickCompass of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response- Related Responders

Statistical Methodology Report



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**2015 QUICKCOMPASS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT
PREVENTION AND RESPONSE-RELATED
RESPONDERS:
STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY REPORT**

Defense Research, Surveys, and Statistics Center

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The RSSC Statistical Methods Branch, under the guidance of David McGrath, Branch Chief, is responsible for all statistical aspects used in RSSC's survey program, including, sampling, weighting, nonresponse bias analysis, imputation, and statistical hypothesis testing. The lead statistician on this survey was Jeff Schneider, under the guidance of Eric Falk, team lead. Carole Massey provided programming support for the weighting tasks. Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) performed data collection and editing.

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2015 QUICKCOMPASS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE-RELATED RESPONDERS: STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY REPORT

Introduction

This report describes the sampling and weighting methodologies used in the *2015 QuickCompass of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response-Related Responders (2015 QSAPR)*. This survey was administered by the Defense Research, Surveys, and Statistics Center (RSSC) within the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) as part of the *QuickCompass* program that supports the personnel needs of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD P&R).

Sample Design and Selection

Target Population

The target population of the *2015 QSAPR* consists of Defense Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP) certified Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and SAPR Victim Advocates (VAs) who are active duty, National Guard/Reserve members, or DoD civilian employees, in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or DoD agencies. The DoD Sexual Assault Prevention Response Office (SAPRO) provided RSSC a list of certified SARCs and VAs in the D-SAACP as of June 22, 2015.

Sampling Frame

The *2015 QSAPR* was requested by SAPRO to provide information on the effectiveness of the current Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) programs from the perspective of primary responders –SARCs and VAs performing daily duties. The population was provided by SAPRO and consisted of 32,106 certified SAPR responders: 1,868 SARCs and 30,034 VAs (204 did not have their position listed) across active duty, National Guard/Reserve, and civilian populations. Because SARC and VA positions are not identified on DMDC administrative files, RSSC was unable to independently determine how effectively the sampling frame covers the target population but assumed that the population provided by SAPRO was comprehensive.

Sample Design

The survey was a census of all 32,106 SARCs and VAs on the D-SAACP file. Sampled members became ineligible if they indicated on the survey or by other contact (e.g., calling the data collection contractor) that they are not currently a SARC or VA (4% of the sample – 1,426 members). Key variables are shown in Table 1 for the *2015 QSAPR*. Table 2 provides the sample size frequencies by key variable.

Table 1.
Variables for Key Reporting Domains

Variable	Variable Name	Categories
SAPR Position	CPOSIT	VA
		SARC
Current Status	CSTATUS	Active Duty
		Civilian
		National Guard/Reserve
Service	CSERVICE	Army
		Navy
		Marine Corps
		Air Force
		DoD

Table 2.
Sample Size by Key Variables

Position	Total	Active Duty	Civilian	National Guard/ Reserve	Army	Navy	Marine Corps	Air Force	DoD
SARC	1,868	1,085	456	327	1,210	121	129	401	7
VA	30,034	25,665	1,183	3,166	14,400	9,101	2,783	3,709	41
Total	31,902	26,750	1,639	3,493	15,610	9,222	2,912	4,110	48

Note: There were 204 members missing a SAPR position (CPOSIT). There were 219 members missing their current status in the military (CSTATUS) and 199 members missing a Service (CSERVICE).

Survey Administration

The 2015 QSAPR survey was administered from September 8, 2015 to October 15, 2015. Refer to the 2015 QSAPR Tabulation Volume (DMDC, 2015) for more details regarding survey administration.

Weighting

Analytical weights for the 2015 QSAPR were created to account for varying response rates among population subgroups. The base weights for all members in the 2015 QSAPR are 1.0 (100% chance of selection), which are then adjusted for nonresponse (eligibility and completion). The adjusted weights were then poststratified to match population totals and to reduce bias unaccounted for by the previous weighting steps.

Case Dispositions

Case dispositions were assigned to each sampled member for weighting based on eligibility for the survey and completion of the return. Execution of the weighting process as well as computation of response rates both depend on this classification. Case dispositions for

weighting are determined using information from personnel records, field operations (the Survey Control System, or SCS), and returned surveys. No single source of information is both complete and correct. Inconsistencies among these sources are resolved according to the order of the precedence given in Table 3.

The order of execution is critical to resolving case dispositions. For example, suppose a sample person refused the survey, with the reason that it was too long; in the absence of any other information, the disposition would be “eligible nonrespondent” (SAMP_DC=8). If a proxy reported that the sample person had been hospitalized and was unable to complete the survey, the disposition would be “ineligible” (SAMP_DC=2). The case dispositions for 2015 QSAPR are shown in Table 3.

Table 3.
Case Dispositions for Weighting

Case Disposition (SAMP_DC)	Information Source	Conditions	Sample Size
1. Record ineligible	SAPRO	File from SAPRO all members assumed eligible.	0
2. Ineligible by self- or proxy-report	Survey Control System (SCS)	Self or proxy reported that member was "Retired," "No longer employed by DoD," or "Deceased."	24
3. Ineligible by survey self-report	Survey eligibility questions	Deemed ineligible based on survey self report on Question 1, "Are you currently serving as a certified Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) or Victim Advocate (VA)?"	1,402
4. Eligible, complete response	Item response rate	Respondent completed at least 50 percent of survey questions.	5,322
5. Eligible, incomplete response	Item response rate	Respondent completed less than 50 percent of survey questions.	1,058
8. Active refusal	SCS	Reason survey is blank is "refused-too long", "refused-inappropriate/intrusive", "refused-other", "ineligible-other", "unreachable at this address", "refused by current resident", "concerned about security/confidentiality."	91
9. Blank return	SCS	No reason given.	102
10. PND	SCS	Postal non-deliverable or original non-locatable.	3,511
11. Non-respondent	Remainder	Remaining blank surveys.	20,596
Total			32,106

Table 4 shows the 5,322 complete eligible respondents' status and Service by SAPR position. As discussed in Table 2 all of the key variables had some degree of missingness: there were 64 missing for SAPR position (CPOSIT), 69 missing for active status (CSTATUS), and 63

missing for Service (CSERVICE). RSSC imputed for these key variables based on the complete eligible respondents answer to the corresponding survey question. For instance, if a member was missing on position (CPOSIT), but responded as a VA, they would be imputed as a VA. This method was used for position, status, and Service. Following this imputation, there were only 12 missing for CSERVICE. These 12 respondents with missing service were placed into appropriate poststratification cells and final complete eligible respondents are shown in the table below.

Table 4.
Complete Eligible Respondents by Key Variables

Position	All	Active Duty	Army	Navy/ Marines	USAF	National Guard/ Reserve	Civilian
SARC	520	246	186	28	32	98	176
VA	4,802	3,715	1,592	1,523	600	719	368
Total	5,322	3,923	1,778	1,551	632	817	544

Nonresponse Adjustments and Final Weights

After case dispositions were resolved, the sampling weights were adjusted for nonresponse. The sampling weights for the 2015 QSA PR took the value of one (1.0) because it was a census. The sample weights were adjusted for nonresponse in the two following steps:

- Step 1: Adjust weights for nonresponse based on eligibility as follows:
 - Transfer the weight of the 24,300 nonrespondents (SAMP_DC = 8, 9, 10, 11) to the 7,806 cases with known eligibility (SAMP_DC = 2, 3, 4, 5). Chi-squared Automatic Interaction Detection (CHAID), a decision-tree technique based on Chi-square tests, was used to determine the best predictors for the logistic model. A logistic regression model was used to predict the probability of eligibility for the survey (known eligibility vs. unknown eligibility). Weighting adjustment factors for eligibility were computed as the inverse of the logistic model-predicted probabilities. The model was weighted using the sampling weight/base weight (1.0 in each case since this was a census). Predictors in the CHAID model are shown in Table 5.
- Step 2: Adjust weights for survey completion as follows:
 - Transfer the eligibility weight (created in Step 1) of the 1,058 incomplete survey responses (SAMP_DC = 5) to the 5,322 complete-eligible respondents (SAMP_DC = 4). Weighting adjustments for completion use the same methodology as Step 1 (CHAID and logistic model).

Step 3: Create final weights

- RSSC calculated the final weight as the product of adjustment factors in Steps 1 and 2. The weights were poststratified to match population totals and to reduce bias unaccounted for by the previous weighting adjustments. Poststratification cells were defined by the cross-classification of position (SARC or VA), status (Active, Reserve, Civilian), and Service. Many of the crossings were collapsed since the goal was to create poststratification cells with more than 30 respondents. Within each post-stratification cell, the non-response-adjusted weights for eligible respondents and self-reported ineligible (SAMP_DC = 2, 3, 4) were adjusted to match population counts. Table 6 shows the three variables used for poststratification.

RSSC observed large differences between the administrative position data (SARC or VA) reported on D-SAACP and the estimated number within each position based on self report. Respondents were classified primarily by survey self-report data. If the self-reported data were missing, then D-SAACP data, at the time of sampling, were used to impute the subgroup classification. For example, the estimated population is higher for SARCs (n=2,935) than the number of SARCs originally identified in the D-SAACP file (n=1,887). This increase in SARCs is due to a large number of respondents originally identified on the population frame as a VA (n=360) self-reporting as a SARC on the survey. RSSC uses the administration data to weight up to the population and the survey responses to produce estimates, and therefore the estimated population of SARCs is larger than the original population file.

Table 5.
Variables Used for the Eligibility and Completion Adjustments

Variable	Variable Name	Categories
SAPRO Position	CPOSIT	SARC
		VA
Service	CSERVICE	Army
		Navy
		Marine Corps
		Air Force
		DoD
Status	CSTATUS	Active duty
		National Guard / Reserve
		Civilian
Occupation Group	OCCGROUP	Best Responders
		Good Responders
		Average Responders
		Poor Responders
		Worst Responders
Race	CRACE_ETH	White
		Black
		Hispanic
		All Others
Education	CEDUC	No College
		Some College
		4-year Degree
		Grad/Professional Degree
Age	CAGE5	18 to 24 years olds
		25 to 30 years olds
		31 to 34 years olds
		35 to 40 years olds
		41 years old and older
Gender	CSEX	Male
		Female
Paygrade	GRADE	Uncollapsed paygrades, 30 levels ranging from E-01 (Junior Enlisted) to O-08 (General level) as well as Civilian paygrades (GS-04 to GS-15)
Civilian/Reserve Program	ALL CD	Collapsed Reserve and Civilian programs

Table 6.
Variables used for Poststratification

Variable	Variable Name	Categories
SAPRO Position	CPOSIT	SARC
		VA
Service	CSERVICE	Army
		Navy
		Marine Corps
		Air Force
		DoD
Status	CSTATUS	Active duty
		National Guard / Reserve
		Civilian

Table 7 provides summaries of the distributions of the sampling weights (all are 1), intermediate weights, final weights, and adjustment factors by eligibility status. Eligible respondents are those individuals who were 1) eligible to participate in the survey, and 2) completed 50% of the survey items asked of all respondents (SAMP_DC=4). Self/Proxy ineligibles are those determined to be ineligible (SAMP_DC = 2 or 3), while the nonrespondents include the incomplete eligibles, refusals, returned blank surveys, unreachablees and other nonrespondents (SAMP_DC = 5 through 11). There were no record ineligible individuals (SAMP_DC=1) since the population file was provided by SAPRO and it was assumed that all members were eligible.

Table 7.
Distribution of Weights and Adjustment Factors by Eligibility Status

Eligibility Status	Statistic	Sampling Weight	Eligibility Status Adjusted Weight	Complete Eligible Response Adjusted Weight	Final Weight With Non-response and Poststratification Factors	Eligibility Status Factor	Complete Eligible Response Factor	Poststratification Factor
Eligible Respondents	N	5,322	5,322	5,322	5,322	5,322	5,322	5,322
	MIN	1	1.64	1.87	1.53	1.64	1.14	0.81
	MAX	1	9.60	12.45	12.64	9.60	1.30	1.04
	MEAN	1	4.10	4.93	4.96	4.10	1.20	1.00
Self/Proxy Ineligibles	N	1,426	1,426	1,426	1,426	1,426	0	1,426
	MIN	1	1.64	1.64	0	1.60		0
	MAX	1	9.60	9.60	9.82	9.60		1.04
	MEAN	1	4.00	4.00	4.02	4.00		1.00
Nonrespondents	N	25,358	25,358	25,358	25,358	25,358	1,058	0
	MIN	1	0	0	0	0	0	
	MAX	1	9.60	0	0	9.60	0	
	MEAN	1	0.18	0	0	0.18	0	

Table 8 displays the sums of sampling weights, intermediate weights (eligibility and completion), and final weights by eligibility status.

Table 8.
Sum of Weights by Eligibility Status

Eligibility Category	Sum of Sampling Weights	Sum of Eligibility Status Adjusted Weights	Sum of Complete Eligible Response Adjusted Weights	Sum of Final Weights With Nonresponse and Poststratification Adjustments
1. Eligible weighted	5,322	21,838	26,239	26,374
2. Ineligible weighted	1,426	5,714	5,714	5,732
3. Non-response unweighted	25,358	4,554	0	0
4. Record ineligible unweighted	0	0	0	0
Total	32,106	32,106	31,953	32,106

Variance Estimation

Analysis of the 2015 *QSAPR* data required a variance estimation procedure that accounted for the weighting procedures. The final step of the weighting process was to define strata for variance estimation by Taylor series linearization. The 2015 *QSAPR* variance estimation strata corresponded closely to the crossing of position (SARC and VA), status (Active, Reserve, Civilian), and Service; however, it was necessary to collapse some of the crossings containing fewer than 25 complete eligible responses with non-zero final weights. Eleven variance estimation strata were defined for the 2015 *QSAPR*.

Multiple Comparison Section

When statistically comparing groups (e.g., Army vs. Average of the other Services estimates of the effectiveness of training), a statistical hypothesis whether there are no differences (null hypothesis) versus there are differences (alternative hypothesis) is tested. RSSC often uses independent two sample t-tests for its statistical tests. The conclusions are usually based on the p-value associated with the test-statistic. If the p-value is less than the critical value then the null hypothesis is rejected. Any time a null hypothesis is rejected (conclude that estimates are significantly different), it is possible this conclusion is incorrect. In reality, the null hypothesis may have been true, and the significant result may have been due to chance. A p-value of 0.05 means there is a five percent chance of finding a difference as large as the observed result if the null hypothesis were true.

In survey research there is interest in conducting multiple comparisons. For example, 1) testing whether the satisfaction with the safety training among Army SARCs and VAs is the same as the satisfaction with all other Services, and 2) testing the satisfaction with the safety training among Navy SARCs and VAs is the same as the satisfaction with all other Services and so on. When performing multiple independent comparisons on the same data the question becomes: “Does the interpretation of the p-value for a single statistical test hold for multiple comparisons?” If 200 independent statistical (significance) tests were conducted at the 0.05 significance level, and the null hypothesis is supported for all, 10 of the tests would be expected to be significant at the p-value < 0.05 level simply due to chance. These 10 tests would have incorrectly assumed to be statistically significant—known as false positives or false discoveries. When a single significance test is conducted, the error rate—the probability of false discoveries—is the p-value itself. When more than one significance test is conducted, the probability of false discoveries increases, i.e., the more tests that are conducted the greater the number of false discoveries.

This is known as the “multiple comparisons problem.” Therefore, it is important to control the false discoveries when performing multiple independent tests to reach more accurate conclusions. Numerous techniques have been developed to control the false positive error rate associated with conducting multiple statistical tests (multiple comparisons) and there is no universally accepted approach for dealing with it.

The method that RSSC uses to control for false discoveries is known as False Discovery Rate correction (FDR) developed by Benjamini and Hochberg (1995). FDR is defined as the expected percentage of erroneous rejections among all rejections. The goal is to control the false discovery rate which is the proportion of “discoveries” (significant results) that are actually false positives. The approach can be summarized as follows:

- determine the number of comparisons (tests) of interest, call it m ;
- determine the tolerable False Discovery Rate (FDR Rate), call it α ;
- calculate the p-value for each statistical test;
- sort the individual p-values from smallest to largest and rank them, call the rank k ;
- for each ranked p-value calculate the FDR-adjusted α (threshold) which is defined as $\frac{k * \alpha}{m}$;
- determine the cutoff delineating statistically significant results from non-significant results in the sorted file as follows: look for the maximum rank (k) such that the ordered p-value is less than the FDR-adjusted α (i.e., look for the maximum k after which the p-value becomes greater than the threshold), call this maximum k the cutoff. Any comparison (p-value) with rank less than the cutoff is considered statistically significant.

RSSC computed the FDR thresholds (FDR adjusted α) for the current year (2015) and implemented FDR Multiple Comparison corrections to control the expected rate of false discoveries (Type I errors) at $\alpha = 0.05$. For the current year estimates, RSSC performed 12,377 separate statistical tests (e.g., Army vs. Average of the other Services estimates of the effectiveness of the training). Of the 12,377 current year statistical tests, 6,059 were statistically significant.

Location, Completion, and Response Rates

Location, completion, and response rates were calculated in accordance with the recommendations of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR, 2015 Standard Definitions), which estimates the proportion of eligible respondents among cases of unknown eligibility.

The *location rate* (LR) uses the AAPOR standard formula for the contact rate (CON2) and is defined as

$$LR = \frac{(I + P) + R + e(UO)}{(I + P) + R + NC + e(UO)} = \frac{\text{adjusted located sample}}{\text{adjusted eligible sample}} = \frac{N_L}{N_E}.$$

The *completion rate* (CR) uses AAPOR standard formula COMR and is defined as

$$CR = \frac{(I + P)}{(I + P) + R + e(UO)} = \frac{\text{usable responses}}{\text{adjusted located sample}} = \frac{N_R}{N_L}.$$

The *response rate* (RR) uses AAPOR standard formula RR4 and is defined as

$$RR = \frac{(I + P)}{(I + P) + R + NC + e(UO)} = \frac{\text{usable responses}}{\text{adjusted eligible sample}} = \frac{N_R}{N_E}.$$

Where

I = Fully complete responses according to RR4 (> 80% complete)

P = Partially complete responses according to RR4 (50 – 80% complete)

R = Refusal and break-off according to RR4 (< 50% complete)

NC = Non-contact

$e(UO)$ = Estimated eligibility of cases unknown

N_L = Adjusted located sample

N_E = Adjusted eligible sample

N_R = Usable responses

Table 9 shows the corresponding sample disposition codes associated with the response categories.

Table 9.
Disposition Codes for Response Rates

Response Category	SAMP_DC Values
Eligible Sample	4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11
Located Sample	4, 5, 8, 9, 11
Usable Response	4
Not Returned	11
Eligibility Determined Cases	2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9
Self Report Ineligible Cases	2, 3

Ineligibility Rate

The ineligibility rate (IR) is defined as the following and needs to be calculated for both weighted and unweighted to be applied to:

$$IR = \text{Self Report Ineligible/Eligibility Determined.}$$

Estimated Ineligible Postal Non-Deliverable/Not Located Rate

The estimated ineligible postal non-deliverable or not located (IPNDR) is defined as:

$$IPNDR = (\text{Eligible Sample} - \text{Located Sample}) * IR.$$

Estimated Ineligible Nonresponse

The estimated ineligible nonresponse (EINR) is defined as:

$$EINR = (\text{Not Returned}) * IR.$$

Adjusted Location Rate

The adjusted location rate (ALR) is defined as:

$$ALR = (\text{Located Sample} - EINR) / (\text{Eligible Sample} - IPNDR - EINR).$$

Adjusted Completion Rate

The adjusted completion rate (ACR) is defined as:

$$ACR = (\text{Eligible Response}) / (\text{Located Sample} - EINR).$$

Adjusted Response Rate

The adjusted response rate (ARR) is defined as:

$$ARR = (\text{Eligible Response}) / (\text{Eligible Sample} - IPNDR - EINR).$$

Table 10 shows the weighted sampled counts used to compute the overall response rates.

The final response rate is the product of the location rate and the completion rate. Table 11 shows both weighted and unweighted location, completion, and response rates for the *2015 QSAPR*.

Finally, Table 12 shows weighted location, completion, and response rates for the full sample by the stratification variables. As can be seen the final weighted response rate for *2015 QSAPR* is 20%, which is similar to responses rates obtained on RSSC's Status of Forces Surveys and other military surveys conducted by RSSC.

Table 10.
Comparison of the Final Weighted Respondents Relative to the Drawn Sample

Case Disposition Categories	Sample Counts		Weighted Estimates	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Drawn sample and population	32,106	100	32,106	100
Ineligible on master files	0	0	0	0
Self-reported ineligible	-1,426	4.4	-1,426	4.4
Total: Ineligible	-1,426	4.4	-1,426	4.4
Eligible sample	30,680	95.6	30,680	95.6
Not located (estimated ineligible)	-626	1.9	-626	1.9
Not located (estimated eligible)	-2,885	9.0	-2,885	9.0
Total not located	-3,511	10.9	-3,511	10.9
Located sample	27,169	84.62	27,169	84.62
Requested removal from survey mailings	-91	0.3	-91	0.3
Returned blank	-102	0.3	-102	0.3
Skipped key questions	-1,058	3.3	-1,058	3.3
Did not return a survey (estimated ineligible)	-3,672	11.4	-3,672	11.4
Did not return a survey (estimated eligible)	-16,924	52.7	-16,924	52.7
Total: Nonresponse	-21,847	68.0	-21,847	68.0
Eligible responses	5,322	16.6	5,322	16.6

Table 11.
Location, Completion, and Response Rates

Type of Rate	Computation	Unweighted	Weighted
Location	Adjusted located sample/Adjusted eligible sample	89%	89%
Completion	Usable responses/Adjusted located sample	23%	23%
Response	Usable responses/Adjusted eligible sample	20%	20%

Table 12.
Rates for Full Sample and Key Variables

Domain Variable	Domain	Sample Size	Eligible Responses	Sum of Weights	Location Rate	Completion Rate	Response Rate
Sample	Sample	32,106	5,322	32,106	89%	23%	20%
SAPRO Position	SARC	1,868	512	1,868	91%	35%	32%
	VA	30,034	4,746	30,034	89%	22%	19%
Status	Active Duty	26,754	3,904	26,754	89%	21%	18%
	Reserve	3,494	808	3,494	89%	28%	25%
	Civilian	1,639	541	1,639	89%	41%	36%
Service	Army	15,612	2,675	15,612	87%	26%	22%
	Navy	9,225	1,175	9,225	88%	16%	14%
	Marine Corps	2,912	486	2,912	97%	21%	20%
	Air Force	4,110	912	4,110	95%	26%	25%
	DoD	48	11	48	90%	31%	28%

Note: For the Sample Size column there are 204 members missing a SAPR position (SARC/VA). There are 219 members missing their current status in the military (Active, Reserve, Civilian) and 199 members missing a Service. Eligible responses with missing administrative data were imputed based on the members' self-report information.

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